

## AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0110] The combined stream, 408, enters the first membrane separation step, 409, equipped with membranes, 410, that are selective in favor of helium over nitrogen. The helium is removed by permeation through the membranes, 410, and leaves this step at lower pressure as the recovered helium first permeate stream, 412. The residue gas is depleted of helium and leaves the step as reject nitrogen stream, 411. This stream is vented ~~passed to the required purge operation.~~